



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week of: July 24 – July 30, 2006

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 30, 2006

Areas of the Commonwealth received some rainfall this week, but overall conditions have been very hot and dry. Days suitable for field work were 6.1. Average temperatures were warmer than normal, and average precipitation was below normal at 0.5 inches. The hot and dry conditions are hurting topsoil moisture, as well as rapidly depleting subsoil moisture. Forage crops remain in relatively good condition throughout the state; however, the heat is beginning to hinder crop development. Although the potential for a good second cutting of hay has improved, producers feel that hay production in general is expected to be less than normal for the year. For the most part, reporters indicated that the corn crop received enough rain to pollinate, and the crop continued to thrive in most areas. Producers are scouting fields now for corn earworms, but no significant damage has been reported. Full season soybeans are setting pods and will need additional rain to ensure good production levels. Vegetables continue to look good in the areas that received some rain this week. Sweet corn, tomato, cantaloupe, and pepper harvests are in full swing. Some tobacco farmers in dry areas have been irrigating fields. The tobacco crop is reported to look very good this year. Other farm activities this week included scouting for insects and disease, weed control in soybean fields, performing needed maintenance on harvest equipment, and preparing for upcoming field day events.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 2, 2006	1	15	66	18
July 9, 2006	1	10	76	13
July 16, 2006	0	8	81	11
July 23, 2006	2	18	73	7
July 30, 2006	4	27	66	3

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 30, 2006

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from	TOTAL	Departure from	Days
NORTHERN							
Woodstock	90	58	75	1	0.59	-0.22	5
Warrenton	92	63	78	3	0	-0.84	0
Winchester 7 SE	92	57	76	2	0.01	-0.83	1
Dale Enterprises	89	58	74	0	0.92	0.08	3
WESTERN							
Glasgow	92	63	77	3	0.92	0.1	1
Roanoke AP	91	60	77	2	0.25	-0.69	1
Waynesboro	88	62	73	1	0.72	-0.12	3
Staunton AG	88	60	75	3	0.44	-0.4	2
CENTRAL							
Charlottesville	92	63	78	3	0.54	-0.58	2
Piedmont Res ST	91	65	78	2	0.96	-0.09	1
Bremo Bluff	101	63	81	5	0.35	-0.56	1
Richmond AP	98	67	82	4	0.2	-0.97	2
EASTERN							
Eastville	94	69	81	3	0.02	-0.87	2
Wallops Island	93	65	79	0	0.09	-0.68	2
Williamsburg	96	68	81	4	0.61	-0.52	3
Keysville	94	64	78	2	1	0.09	1
SOUTHWESTERN							
Blacksburg AG	85	54	71	0	0.1	-0.81	1
Wytheville	84	51	70	-2	0.11	-0.86	1
Saltville	86	57	72	1	1.27	0.22	5
Richlands	86	54	72	5	0.29	-0.76	3
SOUTHERN							
Stuart	89	60	76	3	2.02	0.82	5
Danville AG	97	66	79	1	1.09	0.11	4
Chatham	93	62	76	2	0.08	-0.9	3
Martinsville	91	60	75	0	0.71	-0.38	5
SOUTHEASTERN							
Norfolk VA	98	72	82	4	0.05	-1.14	1
Oceana	96	68	81	3	0.23	-0.96	2
Emporia	94	66	79	3	0.5	-0.41	3
Newport News	96	66	81	2	0	-1.19	0

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

Precipitation Days=Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

WEATHER & CROPS

Week Of July 24 –July 30, 2006

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	3	14	38	39	6
Livestock	1	6	30	51	12
Other Hay	5	22	32	35	6
Alfalfa Hay	2	14	26	47	11
Corn	1	8	24	45	22
Soybeans	0	4	23	57	16
Flue-cured Tobacco	2	14	30	51	3
Burley Tobacco	1	1	17	64	17
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco	2	7	47	42	2
Peanuts	0	0	13	62	25
Cotton	0	6	14	45	35
All Apples	0	1	68	31	0
Peaches	0	14	36	50	0
Grapes	0	1	10	87	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	88	83	84	83
Corn Dough	48	40	33	47
Corn Dent	18	7	3	12
Soybeans Blooming	53	34	50	44
Soybeans Setting Pods	15	9	0	15
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	4	0	4	7
Peanuts Pegged	80	76	84	80
Cotton Setting Bolls	75	60	70	72
Summer Potatoes Harvested	70	45	77	80
Summer Apples Harvested	30	25	20	52
Peaches Harvested	32	28	29	45

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by Extension Agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY (Jon Repair):

Hot weather is pulling surface moisture away very quickly. Rains have continued to be very hit-or-miss across Rockbridge. Forages remain relatively strong; however, hot temperatures are beginning to set them back.

CAROLINE COUNTY (McGann Saphir):

Soil moisture conditions are critical. We have only received about 1.8 inches of rain in the month of July. That, coupled

with the extreme temperatures, is severely stressing pastures, hayfields, corn, and soybeans. Corn received enough rain to be pollinated but that's it. We are scouting for corn earworm now. The worms don't seem too bad in corn so far. Crop farmers are irrigating fields where possible. Vegetable farmers are harvesting melons, sweet corn, beans, squash, and tomatoes. Those with drip or overhead irrigation have done well. Many vegetable crops on dry land (sweet potatoes) have been poor or failed for the most part.

ACCOMACK COUNTY (James N. Belote):

Once again, the county received very timely rains. Most of the water went into ground with very little runoff. Crops are looking very good. Farmers are very happy about good wheat yields. Farmers are scouting for soybeans in almost all fields, and spraying Roundup in late planted soybeans behind wheat. We need to see higher grain prices because of high costs of inputs this year.

ESSEX COUNTY (Keith Balderson):

Parts of the county received some rainfall, but relatively dry and hot conditions started depleting soil moisture levels rapidly toward the end of the reporting period. Crop conditions held for the most part, but soybean and pasture conditions are expected to deteriorate this week if no rainfall is received. Producers spent the week scouting the soybean crop for pests and working on harvesting equipment in anticipation of the upcoming corn harvest.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY (David Moore):

The previous weekend's rain made many areas look better. The corn crop continues to look good. Full season soybeans are setting pods now and will need additional rain in the next few weeks to ensure good production. Double-crop beans are getting off to a good start. Producers are finishing up with post herbicide treatments. Corn Earworm Surveys are almost done. Numbers for the area in the 30-40% range mean careful scouting will be needed in the coming weeks when making decisions for making soybean insecticide applications. Field days and summer educational programs and activities begin next week. Many producers are making small grain seeding decisions for fall planting. Vegetables continue to look good. Sweet corn harvest is in full swing. Cantaloupe and tomato harvest is progressing.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY (Sam Johnson):

The county experienced a mostly hot and dry week, with a quick shower on Thursday and Friday, but very localized. Corn and beans could use a rain and some relief from heat. Vegetable harvest continues. Some hay harvest took place, as well as weed control in soybeans. Producers are starting to monitor soybeans for insect problems, but nothing significant has been reported yet.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY (Barry Robinson):

All crops are in need of rainfall. High temperatures and warm, humid nights are contributing to high disease pressures in all crops.

WYTHE COUNTY (Joseph W. Massey):

Hot dry weather once again is affecting the area. Some crops are again showing signs of drought stress. Corn in many places is about 2 weeks behind in its development. Many mature trees are also showing signs of stress. Leafhopper damage in alfalfa fields is high in some areas of the county. We are about 2.25 inches below normal rainfall for the month of July.

HALIFAX COUNTY (Traci Talley):

The county continues to endure hot dry weather conditions. All rains received much earlier in July have long been gone and crops are once again suffering. The expected high temperatures this week coupled with no rain will really take an effect on many crops like tobacco, corn, and hay.

SURRY COUNTY (Glenn Slade):

Corn is mostly made with soybeans, peanuts, and cotton in reproductive stage and needing rain. High temperatures increase the need for additional moisture. Producers are scouting for insects and diseases on cotton, peanuts.